



# Emerald Cities



Greener Than Green

## WHAT IS EMERALD CITIES?

The Emerald Cities Pilot Program is an innovative, public-private partnership, designed to achieve California's aggressive resource conservation and environmental goals. Through "hands on" technical and financial assistance, the program will help local and regional communities become more "green," and become part of the effort to meet the state's environmental, energy and economic priorities.

## HOW DOES THE PROGRAM WORK?

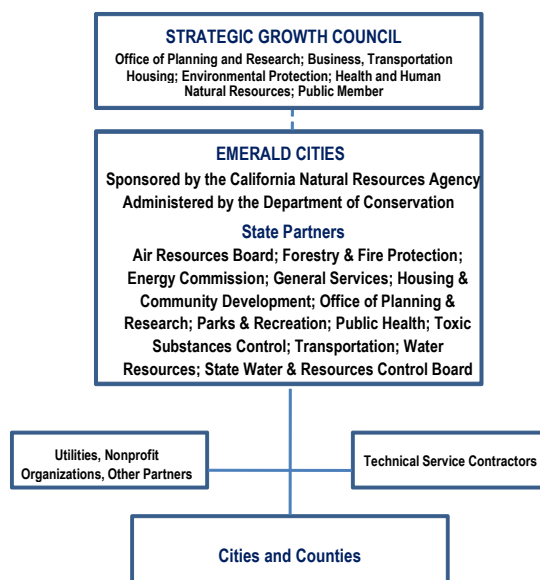
To participate in the pilot program, a city or county would voluntarily agree to:

- 1) Adopt an official resolution committing the jurisdiction to help achieve State environmental targets:
  - ✓ *Improve air quality and reduce carbon emissions.*
  - ✓ *Improve the environmental health of local citizens.*
  - ✓ *Increase solid waste reduction and recycling rates.*
  - ✓ *Reduce motor vehicle transportation and fuel use.*
  - ✓ *Implement smart growth/ sustainable land use and development principles.*
  - ✓ *Protect natural resources, agricultural lands, and open space.*
  - ✓ *Improve energy conservation and efficiency.*

Once a city/ county has adopted an official resolution, the Department of Conservation (DOC) and local officials will:

- ✓ Jointly conduct a categorical assessment of the city/ county's current state of sustainability.
- ✓ Jointly propose, evaluate and select by consensus environmental priorities that help meet or exceed State targets.
- ✓ Develop an action plan that identifies specific tasks, necessary resources and timelines.

- 2) Join The Climate Registry (TCR) and conduct a greenhouse gas inventory of municipal and community facilities.
- 3) Support regional efforts of the California Regional Blueprint Planning Program, if the city/ county is located within a region with an adopted blueprint plan funded by the state.



## PROGRAM BENEFITS

- ✓ Increase collaboration between state agencies, participating local governments, utilities and other partners, resulting in quicker and more effective implementation of sustainable actions.
- ✓ Coordinate state programs across multiple state agencies to leverage state grants and technical services.
- ✓ Link specific local government actions to specific State environmental goals and targets.
- ✓ Accelerate adoption of "best practices" identified through a collaborative process with consultants and state program experts.
- ✓ Provide assistance identifying and overcoming barriers to implementing sustainability.
- ✓ Aid in establishing ongoing processes for implementing sustainability within each city/county for continued growth of sustainable actions.

## COLLABORATIVE MEMBERS

The Emerald Cities Pilot Program is sponsored by the **California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA)** and administered by the **DOC**.

In each community, the **DOC** serves as overall program administrator on behalf of the CNRA and state member agencies. DOC will assist local governments with:

- ✓ Technical assistance.
- ✓ Funding assistance from state, regional and federal agencies and other sources.

**Participating state agencies** will provide assistance through the Member State Agency "points of contact" that will:

- ✓ Provide input to program delivery.
- ✓ Review and comment on local action plans.
- ✓ Identify potential grants and funds to implement plans.

## BACKGROUND

Currently, the Emerald Cities Pilot Program works with two pilot cities; Riverside, which is updating its action plan to include more aggressive goals, and Tracy, which is starting to develop a comprehensive sustainability action plan. Both cities are participants in the Comprehensive Recycling Communities Program (CRC), a DOC initiative that focuses state resources on local communities to increase beverage container recycling. Building upon these efforts, the Emerald Cities Pilot Program expands the focus to other environmental priorities including water conservation, energy efficiency, improved air quality, and protection of agricultural and open space lands.

For more information on the Emerald Cities Program, please contact:

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